IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Jerry M. Conley, Director

Ashton Hatchery

Annual Report

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by

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Ashton Hatchery

ABSTRACT

Our main purpose for this project at the State Fish Hatchery, Ashton, Idaho is to support the fisheries management program of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game by culturing catchable and fingerling size fish and stocking the lakes, reservoirs and streams of the five (5) eastern Idaho counties that lie in Region 6.

Author:

Hark L. Misseldine
Fish Hatchery Superintendent II

INTRODUCTION

The State Fish Hatchery at Ashton is located in northern Fremont County at an elevation of 5,275 feet above sea level. The hatchery is located on Black Springs, has a six (6) cfs flow of spring water. The temperature of this spring water varies, with an average temperature of 51° F.

The hatchery rearing facilities include a one million egg capacity incubating room, supported by two fish rearing areas that include 600 cubic feet of inside troughs and 25,000 cubic feet of outside raceway system.

This project operated by two permanent personnel, living in residences at the station, are aided with one or two temporary aides as the work load requires.

FISH PRODUCTION

With a one million egg allocation we were able to reach the 50,000 pounds fish production that was needed to meet our production quota for the year.

Our egg supply comes from two areas; the State Fish Hatchery at Hayspur in Blaine County, and the Plymouth Rock Trout Hatchery in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

We received 930,580 rainbow trout eggs from Hayspur Hatchery and 187,968 brown trout eggs from the Plymouth Rock Trout Hatchery. We also received 126,454 cutthroat trout fry from Henrys Lake Hatchery that were planted back into Henrys Lake as 1 inch to 3 inch fingerlings. From the rainbow trout eggs we planted 160,008 catchable size fish and approximately 900,000 fingerling size fish. There were 130,806 1 inch to 3 inch fingerling brown trout planted into the Henrys Fork drainage north of Ashton.

We also aided in the salvage of several hundred fish from the Henrys Lake outlet and from the Dry Beds Canal in the South Fork of the Snake River.

The Island Park Reservoir on the North Fork of the Snake River was drained for maintenance work and the rough fish population was eradicated and the reservoir restocked with rainbow trout from other state hatcheries. The Ashton Hatchery helped with this restocking project.

We had a 1,162,477 total production for the year that totaled 49,281 pounds.

FISH FEED USED

In order to reach this total production we fed out during the year 83,450 pounds of commercial fish feed at a cost of $16,330.57, for a conversion rate of 1.69:1, and a feed cost of $.331 for each pound of fish produced.

This dry feed was purchased through state bid, along with approximately 300 pounds of Oregon Moist Pellets that were used to help cutlure the swim-up brown trout fry.

FISH DISEASE

Bacteria gill disease was our major concern during the year, although we did have some Hexamita occur in our fingerling rainbow and some external bacteria in our catchable rainbow.

The bacteria gill disease was kept under control by the use of three chemical agents: Copper sulfate, Cutrine, and Purina 4X. These agents were used as a Copper sulfate flush and the Cutrine and Purina 4X was administered by the use of a constant flow siphon apparatus.

The Hexamita was controlled by the addition of epsom salts to the diet and the external bacteria and strawberry skin disease was controlled with Formilan as a constant flow treatment.

STATION IMPROVEMENTS

During the year we had one major improvement. This was the addition to the hatchery building of, an incubation room for the rearing of fingerling fish. This room has 12 cement troughs with 50 cubic feet of fish holding area. This area with 350 gallon per minute of spring water should carry about 1,000,000 swim-up fry to fingerling stage.

In other improvements residence #2 was remodeled and painted and the floors carpeted. Also, all sewer systems were cleaned and all necessary dam boards in the outside raceway systems were replaced.

PUBLIC RELATION WORK

We had both money and physical assistance from Trouts Unlimited, a sportsman organization of Idaho Falls, Idaho, in helping with our brown trout program. With these people's assistance our brown trout was introduced into the Henrys Fork drainage of the Snake River, known as the Stone Bridge area at the confluence of the Warm River and Robinson Creek.

We worked with and attended other sportsman activities throughout the area. The Fremont County Sportsman Boosters Club continued to receive from the Ashton Hatchery their quota of fingerling rainbow that were planted, reared and released from their Blacks Springs and Hog Hollow rearing ponds. We supplied the club with approximately 30,000 three (3) inch rainbow fingerling for their stocking programs.

Cooperative agreements were fully taken care of with the private land owners that fell under the Island Park Reservoir treatment program.

Some preliminary work was done with the state parks people at Harriman State Park with concern for a possible brook trout spawntaking site on West Thurman Creek.

HATCHERY PERSONNEL

The Ashton Hatchery is operated by two (2) permanent personnel, a Superintendent II in charge of the station and a Superintendent I as an assistant. With the Federal Government programs we are able to get further personnel assistance through the YACC and CETA programs.

We had two (2) men working as needed in these capacities. Trent Oram worked very well under the CETA and YACC programs and John Stevens is doing good work under the YACC Camp Henry program based at St. Anthony, Idaho. Both of these men live off residence in Ashton.

MISCELLANEOUS

During the year the Ashton Hatchery experienced the visitation of approximately 500 to 1,000 visitors. Our biggest visitor load occurs in the spring as school terminates for summer vacation.

Also, duck hunters and muskrat trappers used hatchery property for their recreation uses.

EGG PRODUCTION

Source	Eggs Received
Hayspur	930,580
Plymouth Rock	187,968

FISH TRANSFERRED

Source	Amount Received
Henrys Lake	
Swim-up Fry	126,454

FISH SALVAGED

Island Park Reservoir	
Dam Site	1,200
Henrys Lake Outlet	500
Dry Beds Canal	500

FISH PLANTED

Rainbow (1 in - 3 in)	522,437
Rainbow (3 in - 6 in)	222,772
Rainbow (6 in and Over)	160,008
Brown (1 **in -** 3 in)	130,806
Cutthroat (1 in - 3 in)	124,384

DRY FISH FEED USED

Size	Pounds	Cost
Swim-Up	750	$ 204.81
#1	1,250	335.12
#2	2,150	575.50
#3	2,950	790.90
#4	4,000	1,072.40
#5	19,700	3,715.12
#6	None	None
#7	52,650	9,636.72
	83,450	$16,330.57
Oregon Moist	300	$ 102.00